

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A method of imparting water deficit tolerance to a crop plant by crossing a first transgenic crop plant with a second crop plant wherein said first transgenic crop plant contains recombinant DNA which expresses a transcription factor having at least 70% 50% identity to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said method further comprises a screening process for identification of the water deficit tolerance trait imparted by the transcription factor.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said second crop plant comprises recombinant DNA which expresses a protein that confers at least one of an herbicide resistance trait or a pest resistance trait.

Claim 10-13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said transcription factor has at least 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said transcription factor has at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said transcription factor has 100% identity to SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 17-18. (Canceled)

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said transcription factor comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 20-25. (Canceled)

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said crop plant is a soy, cotton, canola, maize, wheat, sunflower, sorghum, alfalfa, barley, millet, rice, tobacco, fruit, vegetable, or turfgrass plant.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said crop plant is a soy or maize plant.

Claim 28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein said crop plant is a soy plant and said transcription factor comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 29. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein said crop plant is a corn plant and said transcription factor comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.